THE WHITE HOUSE.

Some Historical Reminiscences — The Drama of Life Enacted There.

The president's house is like all the other mansions in America, from the humblest to the greatest. Within its portals the drama of life has been enacted as in the millions of other homes in the land. It had been built, however, nearly half a century before a president brought his bride home there. John Tyler, the fifteenth president of the United States, was the first who brought a bride to the White House. He had been married in 1813, and brought his wife, who had been Miss Semple, with him to the presidential mansion when in 1841 he succeeded President Harrison, but she sickened and died at the White House, and in 1844 he brought Miss Gardiner, of New York, as his bride. He had married her at her home, on Staten Island, N. Y. President Cleveland was the only president that married his wife at the White House. On the 22d of June, 1886, he was married there to Miss Frances Folsom, of Buffalo, N. Y.

Mrs. Washington never entered the White House as its mistress. Mrs. John Adams came first in the line of eminent ladies who breathed the Potomac malaria within its precincts. Mr. Jefferson, Gen. Jackson, Mr. Van Buren were widowers, Mr. Buchanan an old bachelor, and Mr. Cleveland a young one. Mr. Jefferson's daughter did the honors for him. Mrs. A. J. Donelson and Mrs. Andrew Jackson the younger were the leading ladies of Gen. Jackson's household. President Van Buren's daughters and daughters-in-law made the White House gay in his time, and Miss Harriet Lane, who did the honors of the White House for her uncle, President Buchanan, is still remembered in Washington by hosts of friends whom she entertained. Miss Elizabeth Cleveland presided over her brother's household at the executive mansion until Miss Frances Folsom became the president's bride, and the only lady who was ever married to a president in the White House. The wives of all the other presidents have enjoyed the triumphs and troubles which attend what is called the "first lady of the land," nobody having discovered the second lady. It is said that Gen. Jackson's wife died of excitement at his election to the presidency, and she never entered the White House. On the other hand, Mrs. Millard Fillmore, having spent nearly three years as the honored lady of the White House, died a few days after she left it.

The first funeral that ever came from the White House portals was that of Gen. William Henry Harrison, who served his country one month as president. The president's mansion witnessed the funerals of Abel P. Upshur, secretary of state, and Thomas W. Gilmer, secretary of the navy, both killed by the explosion of a great gun on the United States steamer Princeton, in 1844. Gen. Zachary Taylor, president of the United States, was also buried from the White House. President Lincoln's funeral came forth from the same portals. President Garfield was brought forth on men's shoulders to die at Elberon by the seaside, and later the victims of the burning of the mansion of Secretary Tracy were laid in state in the east room, and their funerals took place from the president's house.—Baltimore Sun.

Signs of Spring.

If you read these learned maxims and take note of each small thing, you may come to be a prophet and foretell the gladsome spring. When trees begin to blossom and the violets to bloom; when the bull frogs in the meadow warble boom-ah-boom-ah-boom; when ducks are flying northward and bright butterflies are out, and robbins go housekeeping in the broken waterspout; when grasshoppers are hopping, and black bats come out at night, and venture in your bedroom attracted by the light; when birds fly down the chimney, and hens walk in the door, and beetles hold convention in the center of the floor; when the mud is o'er your shoe tops as you cross the new-plowed land —you may count on it as certain that sweet spring is near at hand.—Harper's Young People.

Heat in Digestion.

Eat all cold food slowly. Digestion will not begin till the temperature of the food has been raised by the heat of the stomach to ninety-eight degrees. Hence the more heat that can be imparted to it by slow mastication the better. The precipitation of a large quantity of cold food into the stomach by fast eating may, and often does, cause discomfort and indigestion, and every occasion of this kind results in a measurable injury to the digestive functions. Ice-water drunk with cold food of course increases the mischief. Hot drinks—hot-water, weak tea, coffee, chocolate, etc.—will, on the contrary, help to prevent it. But eat slowly.—Once a Week.

A Sheep Story.

Black wool is worth from five to ten cents per pound less than the corresponding grade of white wool. A sheep-raiser, in order to insure the separation of the inferior product, placed his black sheep in a pen by themselves. There were sixty-three of these dark-colored animals when he left them one night, but on returning the next morning he found three of them killed by a wolf that had managed to gain entrance to the pen, while the remaining sixty had turned perfectly white from terror. The gain in value of the wool on the sixty more than repaid the loss of the three. —Chicago Times.

Hopeless.

Client—I want to sue a man who owes me fifty dollars.

Lawyer—What's your business?

Client—I am a parlor elocutionist and Shaksperean reciter.

Lawyer—No use—the jury'd give a verdict against you without leaving their seats.—Puck.

Too Like.

Scribbler—Some of my work is rather like Tennyson, don't you think?

Bronson—Yes, indeed; in some lines you haven't changed a word.—West Shore.

THE "SPOTTER" NECESSARY.

A General Passenger Agent Talks About the Conductor's Plaint.

"It seems natural that all persons engaged in handling money should object to being watched," said General Passenger Agent Eustis of the Burlington to a Chicago News reporter. "But what other system can be employed to do away with the railroad 'spotter'? The latter is just as necessary an adjunct to the operation of a railroad as he is to the federal government. We must be protected from unscrupulous employes."

Mr. Eustis' remarks were called forth by a dispatch which told how the conductors in convention assembled at St. Louis had denounced the "spotter" system as unnecessary and an outrage upon the hard-working ticket puncher.

"It is a mistaken idea the public has in thinking that a railroad detective is obliged to prove a certain number of employes are dishonest in order to show that he is doing his work. In reality it is just the reverse. The conductors who make the greatest clamor about the 'spotter' gradually come to realize the necessity of their presence. A detective never reports that a 'certain employe is dishonest.' He has nothing to do with that at all. In sending his report the spotter merely states that a person boarded the train and sat in a certain seat in the car he (the detective) was on, and that the passenger gave the conductor some cash and left the train at such or such a station. This report is then compared with the conductor's.

"This constitutes the work of a detective. A conductor is only dismissed when his shortage continues several months in succession. We had in our employ a short time ago a conductor who was constantly declaiming against the secret-service system. In one of the meetings of the 'Q' conductors this man made a number of very stiring speeches against the spotter. After the meeting had adjourned I asked him to step into my office. He did so, and I pointedly told him we would not allow any more of his stealing and that he must stop such work. He at first appeared deeply hurt at the imputation, but when I produced the reports and showed him that we had evidence that he was dishonest he weakened and promised to reform. Since then his reports have invariably tallied with those of the detectives. No, the secret-service system must be employed, and honest men, while they dislike the idea, have come to look at it in the true light and accept it as one of the inevitables."

OPPOSED TO BEDS.

People Who Sleep on the Floor, in Chairs, or Standing Up.

Several persons, from some cause or other, have resolved at various periods not to sleep in bed. Perhaps the individual who kept to his resolution the longest, says Spare Moments, was Christopher Pevitt, of York, who died in 1796, aged ninety-three. He was a carver and guilder by trade, but during the earlier part of his life served in the army. His house at York, after he had settled down, was accidentally burned down, and he therefore formed the singular resolution of never again sleeping in a bed, lest he should be burnt to death while asleep, or not have time, should such a misfortune again befall him, to remove his property. The resolution he rigidly kept for the last forty years of his life, his practice being to repose on the floor, or on two chairs, or sitting in a chair, but always with his clothes on. He lived entirely alone and was his own housekeeper, and seldom admitted anyone into his habitation. Among other articles which composed his home was a human skull, which he left strict injunctions should be interred with him.

A pedestrian named Ernest Mensen, who flourished in the third decade of this century and who once ran from Calcutta to Constantinople in fifty-nine days when employed as a courier, took very little rest and never slept in a bed when on his travels. He got short naps of only ten or fifteen minutes at a time each day, as and when he could, and took them standing or leaning against a tree, with a handkerchief over his face. Only the other day a man on being charged with begging declared that he had not slept in a bed for thirteen years, but took his night's rest in doorways and passages.

The Japanese never sleep in a bed, but the same spotless floor that answers for table, chairs and dancing stage is utilized also for sleeping purposes. They sleep in a great wadded coat, and, putting their arms into the long sleeves, fold it over them and go to sleep upon the floor, with a block of wood placed under the neck for a pillow. Perhaps the strangest sleeping place was one discovered a few years ago, when the police of Budapest found thirty persons of both sexes lying in a dirty but warm stream of water that flowed out of a mill. The water was shallow, and the vagrants had got into it for warmth, taking stones for pillows.

Coins of Brass and Tin.

When England was being made into mincemeat and blocks of real estate by the Saxons and Danes, silver and brass were in use as currency, but the Normans subsequently installed the aristocratic metal and left the democratic brass to take care of itself. Gold was first coined by Henry III., and copper made into British coin in 1672. Tin was used for coinage in 1680, and the national farthing was made of this Cambrian product with a stud of copper let in the center. In 1690 and 1691 tin half-pence were issued in considerable quantities. The only pure gold coins issued in English history were those of Henry III.

Living Without Working.

It is said that between the island of Madagascar and the coast of India there are sixteen thousand islands, only six hundred of which are inhabited. In any of these islands a man can live and support his family in princely luxury without working more than twenty-five days in the year. In fact, on some of these islands he needn't work at all, as nature provides the food, and no clothes are required.